

**Introduced by Senator Kehoe**

February 23, 2006

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An act to add Section 8588.15 to the Government Code, relating to public safety.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1451, as introduced, Kehoe. Emergency preparedness, planning, and information.

Existing law provides for emergency services, as specified.

This bill would provide that the State Fire Marshal shall convene a permanent advisory committee, composed of representatives from specified groups, to make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state and local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and the provision of accessible information relating to the emergency evacuation of designated groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons without access to transportation, from public and private facilities during emergency or disaster situations. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to develop and host training workshops, to prepare and disseminate brochures and other relevant materials, and to seek research funding to develop new technologies and information systems relating to the evacuation of the designated groups from public and private facilities during emergency and disaster situations. The bill would set forth legislative findings and declarations regarding the need for the bill and would state that it is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act shall appropriate federal Homeland Security funds to the State Fire Marshal in order to implement the act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3     (a) Recent emergencies, such as “9/11” and Hurricane Katrina,  
4 have underscored the need for government to have in place  
5 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and  
6 accessible information.

7     (b) Specifically, these disasters have demonstrated that  
8 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and  
9 accessible information have not been developed to serve the  
10 unique needs of the elderly, those who lack access to  
11 transportation, and those with physical, sensory, and cognitive  
12 disabilities; California is among those states that lack procedures  
13 to address the needs of the elderly, those who lack access to  
14 transportation, and those with disabilities, in evacuating public  
15 and private facilities during an emergency or disaster.

16     (c) The convening by the State Fire Marshal of a permanent  
17 advisory committee to provide the necessary input to the State  
18 Fire Marshal, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Service, other  
19 appropriate state and local agencies, and the Legislature  
20 regarding evacuation procedures, emergency disaster  
21 preparedness plans, and the provision of accessible information  
22 for the elderly, those who lack access to transportation, and those  
23 with disabilities during emergency and disaster situations will  
24 help solve this critical need.

25     SEC. 2. Section 8588.15 is added to the Government Code, to  
26 read:

27     8588.15. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall convene a  
28 permanent advisory committee to make recommendations  
29 regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to the  
30 emergency evacuation of the groups designated in subdivision  
31 (b), including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons  
32 without access to transportation, from public and private facilities  
33 during emergency and disaster situations; the committee shall  
34 also make recommendations regarding the providing of  
35 accessible information regarding preparedness, planning, and  
36 procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups  
37 designated in subdivision (b) from public and private facilities  
38 during emergency and disaster situations.

1 (b) The advisory committee shall include 13 members,  
2 including a representative from each of the following groups:

- 3 (1) Persons with physical disabilities.
- 4 (2) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- 5 (3) Persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- 6 (4) Persons with developmental disabilities.
- 7 (5) Persons with learning disabilities.
- 8 (6) Persons without access to transportation.
- 9 (7) Persons who are elderly.
- 10 (8) Licensed nursing homes.
- 11 (9) Local government.
- 12 (10) Appropriate state agencies.
- 13 (11) Fire officials.
- 14 (12) Researchers in emergency evacuation of groups specified
- 15 in this subdivision from public or private facilities.
- 16 (13) Building owners of public or private facilities.

17 (c) (1) The committee shall provide recommendations to the  
18 State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state and  
19 local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and  
20 provision of accessible information on the emergency evacuation  
21 of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of  
22 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities during  
23 emergency or disaster situations.

24 (2) The recommendations shall include, but shall not be  
25 limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory actions, and  
26 relevant research or technology design.

27 (3) The recommendations developed by the advisory  
28 committee shall be shared with the Governor's Office of  
29 Emergency Services for inclusion into the State Emergency  
30 Management System.

31 (d) (1) The State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the  
32 advisory committee, shall develop and host training workshops  
33 on the following subjects as they relate in particular to the groups  
34 designated in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of subdivision (b):

35 (A) Emergency evacuation procedures for the effective and  
36 safe evacuation from public and private facilities.

37 (B) Emergency or disaster preparedness or planning.

38 (C) The provision of accessible information on preparedness,  
39 planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of  
40 the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of

1 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities during  
2 emergency and disaster situations.

3 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall prepare and disseminate  
4 brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness, planning,  
5 and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the  
6 groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of  
7 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities during  
8 emergency and disaster situations; the materials shall be  
9 available in accessible formats, including, but not limited to,  
10 Braille, large print, audio cassette tape, and electronic file.

11 (e) The State Fire Marshal shall seek research funding to  
12 develop new technologies and information systems that will  
13 assist in the evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs  
14 (1) to (7), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private  
15 facilities during emergency and disaster situations.

16 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act  
17 shall appropriate federal Homeland Security funds to the State  
18 Fire Marshal in order to implement this section.